

SPORTS

Sixers’ defense, Stewart’s shooting stops Celtics 8-7



Lance Cpl. Brian Kester  
**Ron Stewart, the Sixers’ leading scorer, and David Butt, a Celtics forward, struggle for the ball during a game at the Depot Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina gym Feb. 12. The last minute 8-7 win leaves the Sixers at 3-3 for the season.**

**LANCE CPL. BRIAN KESTER**  
*STAFF WRITER*

The Sixers defeated the Celtics 8-7 in the 9- to 10-year-old Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina youth basketball league at the Depot MCCS-SC gym Feb. 12.

The Sixers, led by the scoring of Ron Stewart, battled their way through a hard-fought victory to a 3-3 record. The defensive play throughout the second half of this match up led to a last-second finish.

“There really wasn’t a lot of scoring in the second half, and we had poor passing throughout the game,” said Josh Cathey, coach for the Celtics. “We just couldn’t get those shots to fall.”

Even though the team stumbled a bit in this game, Cathey sees his team finishing the season strong.

“We are a much better team than what our record says, but we will come around,” he said. “We need to work on our rebounds and passing, and just keep on doing what we are doing. We will come through, it is just a matter of time.”

While Cathey moves his team into the future, Terrance T. Jordan, the coach for the Sixers, wants to focus on the present situation.

“In the second half, they were doing fine all I wanted them to do was control the ball a little bit better,” he said.



Lance Cpl. Brian Kester  
**Quandry Kirkland, a Celtics guard, looks for a shot during a game against the Sixers at the Depot Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina gym Feb.12. The Celtics were defeated 8-7.**

“Once the point guard gets the ball, he needs to wait for his team to get downcourt and run a slow game. Don’t just rush and go with the flow of things.

That way, when things get to full speed, you don’t lose control of the ball.”

In the first half, Jordan’s offensive scheme began taking

shape, but since the second half was filled with defensive plays and not much scoring, Jordan was forced to make changes.

“I was thinking defense,” he said. “At first I was running a 3-2 defense, but it got to the point where the 3-2 just wasn’t doing it. So, what we had to do was go into a full-court press and put the pressure on the opponents guard. That gave us the opportunity to get the ball and make some plays.”

With defensive schemes on his mind and the playoffs looming over the horizon, Jordan is thinking about his team’s next practice.

“We have just a few loose ends we need to tie up,” he said. “Other than that we did fine. Next practice, we are going to work on pressuring the ball a little bit more, especially on the inbounds pass. We need to put more pressure on the other team to make some bad passes.”

Attitude will be an important factor for the rest of the season as the teams jockey for their place in the playoffs, said Jordan.

“It was anybody’s game,” he said. “It was all about who is playing to be champions, and we held out until the end.”

The Celtics will face off against the Lakers at Laurel Bay Saturday at noon. The Sixers will take on the Lakers at the Depot MCCS-SC gym Tuesday at 6 p.m.

RTR carries weight of Depot into intramural post season

**CPL. ALISHA R. FITZGERALD**  
*STAFF WRITER*

Wednesday’s games at the Air Station’s Paul L. Siegmund Fitness Complex were scheduled to be the last of the 2003-04 Tri-Command Intramural Basketball Season. As playoffs are set to begin Monday, only one team from Parris Island remains to contend for the tournament trophy.

As their regular season winded down this week, RTR not only finished well enough to advance to the playoffs, but second in the league overall.

As of Tuesday, the team held a 12-3 record, but had a chance to improve upon that with games Tuesday and Wednesday.

Right now, however, the team is more concerned with preparing for the post season than with their regular season record.

“Basically, we are focusing on fundamental basketball and trying to capitalize on the strengths of our game,” said Michael Fisher, head coach for RTR. “I feel that we are ready for the playoffs.”

According to Fisher, the team had a lapse in performance just a few games back, but have since been revived.

“Over the past two games, we have regrouped from our three-game slide and played our style of basketball,” he said.

RTR’s style of basketball consists of an aggressive full-court defense that leads many teams to turnovers, creating fastbreak scoring opportunities.

The team’s last game against MALS-31 Supply was a prime example of how this strategy works for RTR. MALS’ ball handling and passing fell apart after RTR applied added pressure in the second half,



Cpl. Alisha R. Fitzgerald  
**Howard Moore, forward for RTR, drives the baseline on a MALS-31 Supply defender at the Air Station’s Paul L. Siegmund Fitness Complex Feb 9. RTR’s full-court defense helped the team win the game 52-42, improving their record to 12-3.**



Cpl. Alisha R. Fitzgerald  
**Markus Caldwell, a guard for RTR, attempts to scoop in a reverse layup in a game against MALS-31 Supply at the Air Station’s Paul L. Siegmund Fitness Complex Feb. 9. RTR defeated MALS 52-42 and will remain in second place as they begin tournament play next week.**

**“We are carrying the Depot’s reputation on our shoulders, especially when it comes to bragging rights. It’s been unfortunate that other Depot teams didn’t make it.”**  
— Michael Fisher, head coach for RTR

as they were beaten 52-42.

Although Fisher plans to stick fairly close to their usual run-and-gun style throughout the playoffs, he feels that the little extra efforts will be the difference between becoming the champions and merely participating.

“Hustle plays will be the difference going into the playoffs,” he said. “Each possession is critical, and we have to take care of the ball. Disciplined basketball will be the key to our success.”

As many of the teams who are

among RTR in the top five have closely resembling records and statistics, the tournament’s outcome can hardly be predicted. Fisher is one of many who understands that no team is guaranteed a placement in the finals.

“I think all the teams have the potential of making it,” he said. “MALS-31 Ord, NHB and H&HS ATC will match up well with us, and I think it will come down to coaching and execution.”

Although the difference between champions and participants is expected to be small, RTR may have a little bit more riding on the outcome than its opponents. The players are the only Depot representation in the post season, going for all the marbles against the rest of the Tri-Command.


“We are carrying the Depot’s reputation on our shoulders, especially

when it comes to bragging rights,” said Fisher. “It’s been unfortunate that other Depot teams didn’t make it.”

Regardless of the outcome of the playoffs or who is awarded bragging rights, Fisher feels he and his team can still walk away winners with all they have accomplished this year.


“We’ve done a lot of good things this season,” said Fisher. “There is nothing that I would go back and change.”

RTR has not yet been notified who and when they will play the first round of the playoffs. For more information, contact Joe Nierstedt at 228-7946.



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